

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)	
)	
Surrender of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Patricia M. Bynum)	VOLUNTARY SURRENDER
)	
Certificate # 205537)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 9, 2004. On May 4, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Patricia M. Bynum a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her expired South Carolina educator certificate, (certificate) number 205537, by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Bynum received the notice, as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature, and initially requested a hearing. A hearing was scheduled for November 23, 2004, before John Fantry, Esq., a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Prior to that date the Department offered Ms. Bynum an alternative resolution in lieu of the hearing where the Department planned to seek the revocation of her certificate. Ms. Bynum agreed, through her attorney, W. Allen Nickles, III, Esq., to the voluntary surrender of her certificate. The agreement gives Ms. Bynum the right to apply for the reinstatement of her certificate after three years from the date of this order. If she chooses to apply for reinstatement, Ms. Bynum must meet all current certification requirements and pass a character fitness review by the State Board. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary surrender of Ms. Bynum's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

Patricia
M.
Bynum
#205537

Initials

Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Bynum last taught in South Carolina during the 2001-2002 school year in Jasper County. Ms. Bynum has held two one-year temporary certificates from South Carolina. The last temporary certificate expired in 2002. Ms. Bynum held a conditional Georgia certificate during the 2003-2004 school year. During that year, Ms. Bynum applied to the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) for an upgrade to a professional certificate. In support of that application, Ms. Bynum submitted a South Carolina teaching certificate reflecting a validity period through 2005. Upon discovering that the certificate had been altered, the PSC revoked Ms. Bynum's Georgia certificate on May 14, 2004, pursuant to a consent order. While Ms. Bynum did not contest the findings of the PSC, she denies altering the South Carolina certificate.

Patricia
M.
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Initials

Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes "(4) Unprofessional conduct ...(10) Dishonesty... (13) Obtaining or attempting to obtain such certificate by fraudulent means for through misrepresentation of material facts..." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that there was substantial evidence presented to support its decision to accept the voluntary surrender of Ms. Bynum's certificate # 205537 effective November 9, 2004, upon the conditions set forth above.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

November 9, 2004

I, Patricia M. Bynum, SC Teaching Certificate # 205537, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on Tuesday, November 9, 2004, for approval.

S/ Patricia M. Bynum _____
Patricia M. Bynum

10/29/04
Date